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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ELA AND NEA/IPA
NSC FOR PASCUAL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/28/2018

TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [KPAL](#) [EG](#)

SUBJECT: GOE TO OPEN RAFAH AUGUST 30-31 BEFORE RAMADAN

REF: A. CAIRO 1516
[1](#)B. CAIRO 1436
[1](#)C. CAIRO 1402
[1](#)D. CAIRO 1110

Classified By: ECPO Mincouns William R. Stewart per 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) LAWIO Chief MG Nagy told us August 28 that the GOE plans to open the Rafah crossing on a temporary basis August 30 and 31 to allow Egyptians stranded in Gaza to return to Egypt, and to allow Palestinians in Egypt to return to Gaza. MG Nagy said the opening will also allow Palestinians working in various Arab countries to return to Gaza. He noted that Gazan patients would be able to travel to Egypt for treatment and that Palestinians who have received medical care in Egypt would be able to return to Gaza.

[1](#)2. (C) MFA Cabinet Advisor Ahmed Hafez told us August 28 that the August 30-31 opening would also allow third country nationals to leave Gaza, and would permit Palestinians with valid work permits to leave Gaza for countries abroad. Hafez said that the GOE would rigorously check passports and visas. He emphasized that the GOE intends the temporary opening to alleviate pressure in Gaza in advance of Ramadan, which begins September 1.
SCOBAY